Recommendations made during conference on rural water supply and sanitation

2423. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day annual conference on rural water supply and sanitation was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made and the decisions taken; and

(d) the steps being taken by the State Government on the instructions of the Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A two-day conference of Ministers in-Charge of rural drinking water supply and rural sanitation in the States and the Union Territories was held on July 4-5, 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was Sustainability in Rural Drinking Water Supply Systems and Sanitation for All. During the inauguration the Prime Minister released theme documents on sustainability in the rural drinking water supply projects and sanitation.

(c) The important issues which were stressed during the conference are as follows:

- State Governments are to ensure sustainability in drinking water sources both surface and ground water to prevent slippage in terms of quality and quantity of drinking water supply;
- Need for effective convergence with other government programmes like NREGA, Water and Soil Conservation, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);
- Dovetailing of funds with the grants provided under the XII Finance Commission;
- Promotion of cost-effective technologies and revival of traditional water bodies and drinking water sources;
- Regular updation of progress on online monitoring system, and
- Improved data management for planning and implementation of projects

(d) The State Governments are in various stages of operationalisation of the recommendations of the annual State Minister's conference and follow up action taken by the Department in this regard.

Evaluation of techniques to eliminate corruption in implementation of NREGA

2424. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any techniques have been devised to eliminate corruption in the implementation of NREGA so that the benefit goes to the poor beneficiaries in rural areas;

(b) the total amount of money spent on building permanent assets under NREGA in the country during the last one year;

(c) whether any evaluation/study regarding amount spent and the benefits accrued to the people of the area has been done by any independent agency or by your own department; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct scientific evaluation of the scheme; if not, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. Monitoring of the implementation of the Act is done by the Central Government on regular basis. Periodic review meetings are undertaken by Minister of Rural Development and Secretary (Rural Development) from time to time. National Level Monitors and Area officers of the Ministry visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. Comprehensive MIS has been developed that places all vital data in public domain. Monitoring and Vigilance Committees have been set up. Village level vigilance and monitoring committees have been set up for local monitoring. The Ministry is monitoring not only the physical parameters but qualitative indicators as well.

(b) The basic objective of NREGA is to provide for a legal guarantee of one hundred days of employment in every financial year to every rural household for doing un-skilled manual work on demand. Para 9 of the Act provides that minimum 60% of the total cost of the project should be spent towards payment of wages to un-skilled labour. The focus of the Act is, therefore, on works which are labour intensive. A Statement indicating expenditure incurred on payment of wages to unskilled labourers, skilled and semi-skilled workers, on material and contingencies is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Studies have been done by five independent agencies, namely, Indian School of Women's Studies and Development, Institute for Human Development, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad.

Statement

Details regarding expenditure incurred on payment of wages to workers and on other items

Sl. No.	State	Total Availability of funds	Cumulative Expenditure				
			On Unskilled Wage	On semi-skilled and skilled wage	On Material	Contingency	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	114224.39	58422.46	146.48	1049.66	8401.72	68020.32
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1211.25	218.91	0	0	2.43	221.34
3	Assam	70769.1	38369.19	3472.63	16529.93	881.18	59252.93
4	Bihar	119117.81	41859.88	4381.53	24603.2	431.55	71276.16
5	Gujarat	12374.74	5583.01	121.23	1134.72	1746.06	8585.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	Haryana	4652.85	2329.77	84.36	1128.78	51.76	3594.67
7	Himachal Pradesh	5719.2	2057.58	383.11	1475.65	23.77	3940.12
8	Jammu and Kashmir	5012.4	2242.15	717.11	445.37	49.81	3454.44
9	Karnataka	34131.33	14774.24	329.36	9439.87	286.2	24829.67
10	Kerala	4835.18	2474.63	42.6	96.43	176.07	2789.73
11	Madhya Pradesh	213368.36	117350.36	9341.7	56657.9	2918.67	186268.63
12	Maharashtra	48693.66	16517.89	676.98	182.9	83.41	17461.18
13	Manipur	2037.59	1385.87	230.61	368.52	40.5	2025.5
14	Meghalaya	2583.63	1767.46	4.63	316.77	22.99	2111.85
15	Mizoram	2598.21	1375.63	15.21	174.9	77.37	1643.11
16	Nagaland	1595.96	863.62	12.05	532.15	49.8	1457.62
17	Orissa	89018.66	42197.66	4236.49	26062.5	849.97	73346.62
18	Punjab	3839.21	1464.01	0	975.06	61.14	2500.21
19	Rajasthan	85617.3	50726.51	2050.63	15608.08	920.92	69306.14
20	Sikkim	456.5	211.23	0	50.66	0	261.89
21	Tamil Nadu	25210.92	14628.18	0	0	535.45	15163.63
22	Tripura	4977.63	3007.8	204.42	1215.46	80	4507.68
23	Uttar Pradesh	102871.22	46209.24	3051.48	27215.87	1490.87	77967.46
24	West Bengal	63023.42	30814.68	862.23	6801.78	983.94	39462.63
25	Chattisgarh	84088.78	43156.49	1904.83	20772.26	1048.58	66882.16
26	Jharkhand	98220.95	41286.36	3831.65	25188.81	848.31	71155.13
27	Uttaranchal	7105.31	2942.07	71.2	1677.35	159.08	4849.7
	TOTAL:	1207355.57	584236.88	36172.52	239704.58	22221.55	882335.55

Establishment of Water Quality Testing Laboratories

2425. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to help establishing Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories in all districts of the country;

(b) if so, the status thereof in Gujarat State; and

(c) whether any proposal for establishment of water quality testing laboratory is pending for approval with the Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes Sir. Under water quality monitoring and surveillance programme, a district level water quality testing laboratory is planned for each district in the country. Till such time the new district level laboratories are set up and made functional, the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) may identify technical institutions like CSIR labs, Engineering colleges,